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Basic Documents
of the League of
Arab States

THE ARAB INFORMATION CENTER
445 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

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League of Arab States.

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The present publication is the first of a series of DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS, designed to make available to the interested reader the full texts of groups of related documents, pertaining to Arab affairs, situations, and institutions.

These documents are selected, compiled, and—where necessary—translated by our Research Section.

M. KAMIL A. RAHIM,
Ambassador

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(This material is filed, under the Foreign Agent's Registration Act, with the Department of Justice, where the required statement of the Arab Information Center, as an agency of the governments of the League of Arab States, is available for inspection. Registration does not imply approval or disapproval of this material by the U. S. Government.)

The Alexandria Protocol⁽¹⁾

The undersigned, chiefs and members of Arab delegations at the Preliminary Committee of the General Arab Conference, viz:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PRELIMINARY COMMITTEE

H. E. MUSTAFA AL-NAHHAS PASHA, Egyptian Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; head of the Egyptian delegation;

SYRIAN DELEGATION

H. E. SA'DALLAH AL-JABIRI, Syrian Prime Minister and head of the Syrian delegation;

H. E. JAMIL MARDAM BEY, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

H. E. DR. NAGIB AL-ARMANAZI, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Syrian Republic;

H. E. M. SABRI AL-'ASALI, deputy of Damascus;

TRANS-JORDINIAN DELEGATION

H. E. TAWFIQ ABUL-HUDA PASHA, Trans-Jordanian Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, head of the Trans-Jordanian delegation;

H. E. SULAYMAN SUKKAR BEY, Financial Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

IRAQI DELEGATION

H. E. HAMDI AL-BAHJAJI, Iraqi Prime Minister and head of the Iraqi delegation;

H. E. ARSHAD AL-'UMARI, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

H. E. NURI AL-SA'ID, former Iraqi Prime Minister;

H. E. TAHSIN AL-'ASKARI, Iraqi Minister Plenipotentiary in Egypt;

LEBANESE DELEGATION

H. E. RIYAD AL-SULH BEY, Lebanese Prime Minister and head of the Lebanese delegation;

H. E. SALIM TAQLA BEY, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

H. E. MUSA MUBARAK, Chief of the Presidential Cabinet;

EGYPTIAN DELEGATION

H. E. NAGIB AL-HILALI PASHA, Minister of Education;

H. E. MUHAMMAD SABRI AUB-'ALAM PASHA, Minister of Justice;

H. E. MUHAMMAD SALAH-AL-DIN BEY, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

⁽¹⁾ This protocol was drawn up at the end of the Conference on October 7, 1944.

Anxious to strengthen and consolidate the ties which bind all Arab countries and to direct them toward the welfare of the Arab world, to improve its conditions, insure its future, and realize its hopes and aspirations,

And in response to Arab public opinion in all Arab countries, Have met at Alexandria from Shawwal 8, 1363 (September 25, 1944) to Shawwal 20, 1363 (October 7, 1944) in the form of a Preliminary Committee of the General Arab Conference, and have agreed as follows:

1. LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

A League will be formed of the independent Arab States which consent to join the League. It will have a council which will be known as the "Council of the League of Arab States" in which all participating states will be represented on an equal footing.

The object of the League will be to control the execution of the agreements which the above states will conclude; to hold periodic meetings which will strengthen the relations between those states; to coordinate their political plans so as to insure their cooperation, and protect their independence and sovereignty against every aggression by suitable means; and to supervise in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries.

The decisions of the Council will be binding on those who have accepted them except in cases where a disagreement arises between two member states of the League in which the two parties shall refer their dispute to the Council for solution. In this case the decision of the Council of the League will be binding.

In no case will resort to force to settle a dispute between any two member states of the League be allowed. But every state shall be free to conclude with any other member state of the League, or other powers, special agreements which do not contradict the text or spirit of the present dispositions.

In no case will the adoption of a foreign policy which may be prejudicial to the policy of the League or an individual member state be allowed.

The Council will intervene in every dispute which may lead to war between a member state of the League and any other member state or power, so as to reconcile them.

A subcommittee will be formed of the members of the Preliminary Committee to prepare a draft of the statutes of the Council of the League and to examine the political questions which may be the object of agreement among Arab States.

2. COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. The Arab States represented on the Preliminary Committee shall closely cooperate in the following matters:

- (1) Economic and financial matters, i.e., commercial exchange, customs, currency, agriculture, and industry.
- (2) Communications, i.e., railways, roads, aviation, navigation, posts and telegraphs.
- (3) Cultural matters.
- (4) Questions of nationality, passports, visas, execution of judgments, extradition of criminals, etc.
- (5) Social questions.
- (6) Questions of public health.

B. A subcommittee of experts for each of the above subjects will be formed in which the states which have participated in the Preliminary Committee will be represented. This subcommittee will prepare draft regulations for cooperation in the above matters, describing the extent and means of that collaboration.

C. A committee for coordination and editing will be formed whose object will be to control the work of the other subcommittees, to coordinate that part of the work which is accomplished, and to prepare drafts of agreements which will be submitted to the various governments.

D. When all the subcommittees have accomplished their work the Preliminary Committee will meet to examine the work of the subcommittees as a preliminary step toward the holding of a General Arab Conference.

3. CONSOLIDATION OF THESE TIES IN THE FUTURE

While expressing its satisfaction at such a happy step, the Committee hopes that Arab States will be able in the future to consolidate that step by other steps, especially if post-war events should result in institutions which bind various Powers more closely together.

4. A SPECIAL RESOLUTION CONCERNING LEBANON

The Arab States represented on the Preliminary Committee emphasize their respect of the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon in its present frontiers, which the governments of the above States have already recognized in consequence of Lebanon's adoption of an independent policy, which the Government of that country announced in its program of October 7, 1943, unanimously approved by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

5. A SPECIAL RESOLUTION CONCERNING PALESTINE

A. The Committee is of the opinion that Palestine constitutes an important part of the Arab World and that the rights of the Arabs in Palestine cannot be touched without prejudice to peace and stability in the Arab World.

The Committee also is of the opinion that the pledges binding the British Government and providing for the cessation of Jewish immigration, the preservation of Arab lands, and the achievement of independence for Palestine are permanent Arab rights whose prompt implementation would constitute a step toward the desired goal and toward the stabilization of peace and security.

The Committee declares its support of the cause of the Arabs of Palestine and its willingness to work for the achievement of their legitimate aim and the safeguarding of their just rights.

The Committee also declares that it is second to none in regretting the woes which have been inflicted upon the Jews of Europe by European dictatorial states. But the question of these Jews should not be confused with Zionism, for there can be no greater injustice and aggression than solving the problem of the Jews of Europe by another injustice, i.e., by inflicting injustice on the Arabs of Palestine of various religions and denominations.

B. The special proposal concerning the participation of the Arab Governments and peoples in the "Arab National Fund" to safeguard the lands of the Arabs of Palestine shall be referred to the committee of financial and economic affairs to examine it from all its angles and to submit the result of that examination to the Preliminary Committee in its next meeting.

In faith of which this protocol has been signed at Faruq I University at Alexandria on Saturday, Shawwal 20, 1363 (October 7, 1944).

Pact of the League of Arab States⁽¹⁾

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYRIAN REPUBLIC;

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE AMIR OF TRANS-JORDAN;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF IRAQ;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SAUDI ARABIA;

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF EGYPT;

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE YEMEN;

Desirous of strengthening the close relations and numerous ties which link the Arab States;

And anxious to support and stabilize these ties upon a basis of respect for the independence and sovereignty of these states, and to direct their efforts toward the common good of all the Arab countries, the improvement of their status, the security of their future, the realization of their aspirations and hopes;

And responding to the wishes of Arab public opinion in all Arab lands;

Have agreed to conclude a Pact to that end and have appointed as their representatives the persons whose names are listed hereinafter:

The President of the Syrian Republic; who has appointed as representatives for Syria: His Excellency Faris al-Khuri, Prime Minister; His Excellency Jamil Mardam Bey, Minister of Foreign Affairs;

His Royal Highness the Amir of Trans-Jordan; who has appointed as representatives for Trans-Jordan: His Excellency Samir al-Rafa'i Pasha, Prime Minister; His Excellency Sa'id al-Mufti Pasha, Minister of the Interior; Sulayman al-Nabulusi Bey, Secretary of the Cabinet;

His Majesty the King of Iraq; who has appointed as representatives for Iraq: His Excellency Arshad al-'Umari, Minister of Foreign Affairs; His Excellency 'Ali Jawdat al-Ayyubi, Minister Plenipotentiary of Iraq in Washington; His Excellency Tahsin al-'Askari, Minister Plenipotentiary of Iraq in Cairo;

His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia; who has appointed as representatives for Saudi Arabia: His Excellency the Sheikh Yusuf Yasin,

⁽¹⁾ Signed March 22, 1945.

Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs; His Excellency Khayr-al-din al-Zirikli, Councillor of the Saudi Arabian Legation in Cairo;

His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic; who has appointed as representatives for Lebanon: His Excellency 'Abd-al-Hamid Karami, Prime Minister; His Excellency Yusuf Salim, Minister Plenipotentiary of Lebanon in Cairo;

His Majesty the King of Egypt; who appointed as representatives for Egypt: His Excellency Mahmud Fahmi al-Nuqrashi Pasha, Prime Minister; His Excellency Muhammad Husayn Haykal Pasha, President of the Senate; His Excellency 'Abd-al-Hamid Badawi Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs; His Excellency Makram 'Ubayd Pasha, Minister of Finance; His Excellency Muhammad Hafiz Ramadan Pasha, Minister of Justice; His Excellency 'Abd-al-Razzaq Ahmad al-Sanhuri Bey, Minister of Education; Abd-al-Rahman 'Azzam Bey, Minister Plenipotentiary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

His Majesty the King of the Yemen; who has appointed as representatives for the Yemen: His Excellency Sayed Hussein El-Kabsi.

Who, after having exchanged their plenary powers, which were found to be in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions:

Article 1

The League of Arab States is composed of the independent Arab States which have signed this Pact.

Any independent Arab State has the right to become a member of the League. If it desires to do so, it shall submit a request which will be deposited with the Permanent Secretariat General and submitted to the Council at the first meeting held after submission of the request.

Article 2

The League has as its purpose the strengthening of the relations between the member states; the coordination of their policies in order to achieve cooperation between them and to safeguard their independence and sovereignty; and a general concern with the affairs and interests of the Arab countries. It has also as its purpose the close cooperation of the member states, with due regard to the organization and circumstances of each state, on the following matters:

- A. Economic and financial affairs, including commercial relations, customs, currency, and questions of agriculture and industry.
- B. Communications; this includes railroads, roads, aviation, navigation, telegraphs, and posts.
- C. Cultural affairs.

D. Nationality, passports, visas, execution of judgments, and extradition of criminals.

E. Social affairs.

F. Health problems.

Article 3

The League shall possess a Council composed of the representatives of the member states of the League; each state shall have a single vote, irrespective of the number of its representatives.

It shall be the task of the Council to achieve the realization of the objectives of the League and to supervise the execution of agreements which the member states have concluded on the questions enumerated in the preceding article, or on any other questions.

It likewise shall be the Council's task to decide upon the means by which the League is to cooperate with the international bodies to be created in the future in order to guarantee security and peace and regulate economic and social relations.

Article 4

For each of the questions listed in Article 2 there shall be set up a special committee in which the member states of the League shall be represented. These committees shall be charged with the task of laying down the principles and extent of cooperation. Such principles shall be formulated as draft agreements, to be presented to the Council for examination preparatory to their submission to the aforesaid states.

Representatives of the other Arab countries may take part in the work of the aforesaid committees. The Council shall determine the conditions under which these representatives may be permitted to participate and the rules governing such representation.

Article 5

Any resort to force in order to resolve disputes arising between two or more member states of the League is prohibited. If there should arise among them a difference which does not concern a state's independence, sovereignty, or territorial integrity, and if the parties to the dispute have recourse to the Council for the settlement of this difference, the decision of the Council shall then be enforceable and obligatory.

In such a case, the states between whom the difference has arisen shall not participate in the deliberations and decisions of the Council.

The Council shall mediate in all differences which threaten to lead to war between two member states, or a member state and a third state, with a view to bringing about their reconciliation.

Decisions of arbitration and mediation shall be taken by majority vote.

Article 6

In case of aggression or threat of aggression by one state against a member state, the state which has been attacked or threatened with aggression may demand the immediate convocation of the Council.

The Council shall by unanimous decision determine the measures necessary to repulse the aggression. If the aggressor is a member state, his vote shall not be counted in determining unanimity.

If, as a result of the attack, the government of the state attacked finds itself unable to communicate with the Council, that state's representative in the Council shall have the right to request the convocation of the Council for the purpose indicated in the foregoing paragraph. In the event that this representative is unable to communicate with the Council, any member state of the League shall have the right to request the convocation of the Council.

Article 7

Unanimous decisions of the Council shall be binding upon all member states of the League; majority decisions shall be binding only upon those states which have accepted them.

In either case the decisions of the Council shall be enforced in each member state according to its respective basic laws.

Article 8

Each member state shall respect the systems of government established in the other member states and regard them as exclusive concerns of those states. Each shall pledge to abstain from any action calculated to change established systems of government.

Article 9

States of the League which desire to establish closer cooperation and stronger bonds than are provided by this Pact may conclude agreements to that end.

Treaties and agreements already concluded or to be concluded in the future between a member state and another state shall not binding or restrictive upon other members.

Article 10

The permanent seat of the League of Arab States is established in Cairo. The Council may, however, assemble at any other place it may designate.

Article 11

The Council of the League shall convene in ordinary session twice a year, in March and in October. It shall convene in extraordinary session upon the request of two member states of the League whenever the need arises.

Article 12

The League shall have a permanent Secretariat-General which shall consist of a Secretary-General, Assistant Secretaries, and an appropriate number of officials.

The Council of the League shall appoint the Secretary-General by a majority of two-thirds of the states of the League. The Secretary-General, with the approval of the Council shall appoint the Assistant Secretaries and the principal officials of the League.

The Council of the League shall establish an administrative regulation for the functions of the Secretariat-General and matters relating to the Staff.

The Secretary-General shall have the rank of Ambassador and the Assistant Secretaries that of Ministers Plenipotentiary.

The first Secretary-General of the League is named in an Annex to this Pact.

Article 13

The Secretary-General shall prepare the draft of the budget of the League and shall submit it to the Council for approval before the beginning of each fiscal year.

The Council shall fix the share of the expenses to be borne by each state of the League. This share may be reconsidered if necessary.

Article 14

The members of the Council of the League as well as the members of the committees and the officials who are to be designated in the administrative regulation shall enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunity when engaged in the exercise of their functions.

The buildings occupied by the organs of the League shall be inviolable.

Article 15

The first meeting of the Council shall be convened at the invitation of the head of the Egyptian Government. Thereafter it shall be convened at the invitation of the Secretary-General.

The representatives of the member states of the League shall alternately assume the presidency of the Council at each of its ordinary sessions.

Article 16

Except in cases specifically indicated in this Pact, a majority vote of the Council shall be sufficient to make enforceable decisions on the following matters:

- A. Matters relating to personnel.
- B. Adoption of the budget of the League.
- C. Establishment of the administrative regulations for the Council, the committees, and the Secretariat General.
- D. Decisions to adjourn the sessions.

Article 17

Each member state of the League shall deposit with the Secretariat-General one copy of every treaty or agreement concluded or to be concluded in the future between itself and another member state of the League or a third state.

Article 18

If a member state contemplates withdrawal from the League, it shall inform the Council of its intention one year before such withdrawal is to go into effect.

The Council of the League may consider any state which fails to fulfill its obligations under this Pact as having become separated from the League, this to go into effect upon a unanimous decision of the states, not counting the state concerned.

Article 19

This Pact may be amended with the consent of two-thirds of the states belonging to the League, especially in order to make firmer and stronger the ties between the member states, to create an Arab Tribunal of Arbitration, and to regulate the relations of the League with any international bodies to be created in the future to guarantee security and peace.

Final action on an amendment cannot be taken prior to the session following the session in which the motion was initiated.

If a state does not accept such an amendment it may withdraw at such time as the amendment goes into effect, without being bound by the provisions of the preceding article.

Article 20

This Pact and its Annexes shall be ratified according to the basic laws in force among the High Contracting Parties.

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretariat-General of the Council and the Pact shall become operative as regards each ratifying state fifteen days after the Secretary-General has received the instruments of ratification from four states.

This Pact has been drawn up in Cairo in the Arabic language on this 8th day of Rabi' II, thirteen hundred and sixty-four (March 22, 1945), in one copy which shall be deposited in the safe keeping of the Secretariat-General.

An identical copy shall be delivered to each state of the League.

[*Here follow the signatures.*]

(1) Annex Regarding Palestine

Since the termination of the last great war the rule of the Ottoman Empire over the Arab countries, among them Palestine, which had become detached from that Empire, has come to an end. She has come to be autonomous, not subordinate to any other state.

The Treaty of Lausanne proclaimed that her future was to be settled by the parties concerned.

However, even though she was as yet unable to control her own affairs, the Covenant of the League (of Nations) in 1919 made provision for a regime based upon recognition of her independence.

Her international existence and independence in the legal sense cannot, therefore, be questioned, any more than could the independence of the other Arab countries.

Although the outward manifestations of this independence have remained obscured for reasons beyond her control, this should not be allowed to interfere with her participation in the work of the Council of the League.

The States signatory to the Pact of the Arab League are therefore of the opinion that, considering the special circumstances of Palestine and until that country can effectively exercise its independence, the Council of the League should take charge of the selection of an Arab representative from Palestine to take part in its work.

(2) *Annex Regarding Cooperation With Countries Which Are Not Members of the Council of the League*

Whereas the member states of the League will have to deal in the Council as well as in the committees with matters which will benefit and affect the Arab world at large;

And whereas the Council has to take into account the aspirations of the Arab countries which are not members of the Council and has to work toward their realization;

Now therefore, it particularly behooves the states signatory to the Pact of the Arab League to enjoin the Council of the League, when considering the admission of those countries to participation in the committees referred to in the Pact, that it should do its utmost to cooperate with them, and furthermore, that it should spare no effort to learn their needs and understand their aspirations and hopes; and that it should work thenceforth for their best interests and the safeguarding of their future with all the political means at its disposal.

(3) *Annex Regarding the Appointment of a Secretary-General of the League*

The states signatory to this Pact have agreed to appoint His Excellency Abd-ul-Rahman 'Azzam Bey, to be the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

This appointment is made for two years. The Council of the League shall hereafter determine the new regulations for the Secretariat-General.

Cultural Treaty of the Arab League⁽¹⁾

Article 1

The States of the Arab League agree that each of them shall form a local organization whose functions shall be to consider matters concerning cultural cooperation between the Arab States. Each state will be free as to how it forms this organization.

Article 2

The States of the Arab League agree to exchange teachers and professors between their educational institutions, according to the general and individual conditions as will be agreed to. The period of service of any teacher or professor who is a Government official and who will be delegated for this purpose, will be considered as service for his own Government, with the maintenance of his rights as regards his post, promotion, and pension.

Article 3

The States of the Arab League agree to the exchange of students and scholars between their educational institutions, and their acceptance in suitable classes as far as accommodation will allow, in accordance with the regulations of those institutions.

In order to facilitate this, those States, while maintaining the basic educational principles adopted in their countries will work towards harmonizing their educational syllabi and certificates. This will be done by special agreement between those States.

Such facilities, as may be possible, will be given by each State to any other State which wishes to construct hostels for its students.

Article 4

The States of the Arab League will encourage cultural, scouting, and sports visits between the Arab countries, in areas which the Governments allow, and the holding of cultural and educational meetings for students. Facilities will be given for this purpose, particularly in respect to travelling arrangements and the expenses of the journey.

Article 5

The States of the Arab League agree on the reciprocal establishment of educational and scientific institutions in their various countries.

(1) Signed November 20, 1946.

Article 6

The States of the Arab League will cooperate in the revival of the intellectual and artistic legacy of the Arabs, safeguarding and propagating it, as well as making it available to those who seek it by all possible means.

Article 7

In order to keep pace with the world's intellectual movements, the States of the Arab League will encourage and organize the translation of all foreign masterpieces, whether classical or modern. They will also encourage all intellectual output in the Arab countries by such means as the opening of institutes for scientific and literary research. They will organize competitions for authors, and will grant prizes to distinguished men of science, literature, and art.

Article 8

All the States of the Arab League undertake to legislate for the protection of scientific, literary, and artistic authorship rights for all publications in all States of the Arab League.

Article 9

The States of the Arab League will work for the standardization of scientific terms, by means of councils, congresses and joint committees, which they will set up, and by means of bulletins which these organizations will issue. They will work to make the Arabic language convey all expressions of thought and modern science, and to make of it the language of instruction in all subjects and in all educational stages in the Arab countries.

Article 10

The States of the Arab League will work for the consolidation of contacts between libraries and museums, whether scientific, historical or artistic, by such means as the exchange of publications, indexes, and duplicating antiquities, as well as by the exchange of technical officials and missions for excavations by agreements between them.

Article 11

The States of the Arab League agree to consolidate relations and to facilitate cooperation between scientists, literary men, journalists, members of the professions, those connected with art, the stage, the cinema and broadcasting, where available, by organizing visits for them between one country and another and by encouraging cultural, scientific, and

educational conferences for the purpose; also by placing room, laboratories and material in scientific institutions in every Arab country at the disposal of the learned of other countries to demonstrate scientific discoveries; also by the publication of periodical bulletins regarding books of scientific research published in all Arab countries. Each author or publisher must send to the "Cultural Committee" copies of his work for its library as well as for the principal libraries of each State.

Article 12

The States of the Arab League agree to include in their educational syllabi, the history, geography and literature of the Arab countries, sufficiently to give a clear idea of the life of those countries and their civilization. They also agree upon the institution of an Arab library for students.

Article 13

The States of the Arab League will work to acquaint their sons with the social, cultural, economic, and political conditions in all Arab countries, i.e. by means of broadcasts, the stage, cinema, and press, or by any other means, also by the institution of museums for Arab culture and civilization, as well as by assuring its success by holding occasional exhibitions for art and literature, and of public and scholastic festivals in the various Arab countries.

Article 14

The States of the Arab League shall encourage the establishment of Arab social and cultural clubs in their respective countries.

Article 15

The States of the Arab League will take all necessary measures to approximate their legislative trends and to unify as far as possible their laws; also to include the study of legislation of other Arab countries in their syllabi.

Article 16

This Treaty shall be ratified by the signatory States, according to their constitutional regime, with a minimum of delay. The instruments of ratification shall be lodged in the Secretariat-General of the Arab League which shall prepare a note of the receipt of each document and notify the other contracting States.

Article 17

Arab countries are permitted to adhere to this Treaty by notifying the Secretary-General of the League, who will communicate the fact to the other contracting States.

Article 18

This Treaty will come into force one month after the date of the receipt of the instruments of ratification from two States. It shall also come into force for the other States who participate, one month after the date of the deposit of the document of joining from these States.

Article 19

Any signatory State of this Treaty is allowed to withdraw from it by giving notice to the Secretariat-General of the League. The notice will take effect six months from the date of its dispatch.

Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty Between the States of the Arab League⁽¹⁾

The Governments of:

THE HASHIMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

THE SYRIAN REPUBLIC

THE KINGDOM OF IRAQ

THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC

THE KINGDOM OF EGYPT

THE MOTAWAKILITE KINGDOM OF YEMEN

In view of the desire of the above-mentioned Governments to consolidate relations between the States of the Arab League; to maintain their independence and their mutual heritage; in accordance with the desire of their peoples, to cooperate for the realization of mutual defense and the maintenance of security and peace according to the principles of both the Arab League Pact and the United Nations Charter, together with the aims of the said Pacts; and to consolidate stability and security and provide means of welfare and development in the countries.

The following government delegates of . . . , having been duly accredited and fully authorized by their respective governments, approve the following:

Article 1

The Contracting States, in an effort to maintain and stabilize peace and security, hereby confirm their desire to settle their international disputes by peaceful means, whether such disputes concern relations among themselves or with other Powers.

Article 2

The Contracting States consider any (act of) armed aggression made against any one or more of them or their armed forces, to be directed against them all. Therefore, in accordance with the right of self-defense,

⁽¹⁾ Signed by Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen on June 17, 1950; by Iraq on February 2, 1951; and by Jordan on February 16, 1952.

individually and collectively, they undertake to go without delay to the aid of the State or States against which such an act of aggression is made, and immediately to take, individually and collectively, all steps available, including the use of armed force, to repel the aggression and restore security and peace. In conformity with Article 6 of the Arab League Pact and Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, the Arab League Council and U.N. Security Council shall be notified of such act of aggression and the means and procedure taken to check it.

Article 3

At the invitation of any one of the signatories of this Treaty the Contracting States shall hold consultations whenever there are reasonable grounds for the belief that the territorial integrity, independence, or security of any one of the parties is threatened. In the event of the threat of war or the existence of an international emergency, the Contracting States shall immediately proceed to unify their plans and defensive measures, as the situation may demand.

Article 4

The Contracting States, desiring to implement fully the above obligations and effectively carry them out, shall cooperate in consolidating and coordinating their armed forces, and shall participate according to their resources and needs in preparing individual and collective means of defense to repulse the said armed aggression.

Article 5

A Permanent Military Commission composed of representatives of the General Staffs of the armies of the Contracting States shall be formed to draw up plans of joint defense and their implementation. The duties of the Permanent Military Commission which are set forth in an Annex attached to this Treaty, include the drafting of necessary reports on the method of cooperation and participation mentioned in Article 4. The Permanent Military Commission shall submit to the Joint Defense Council, provided hereunder in Article 6, reports dealing with questions within its province.

Article 6

A Joint Defense Council under the supervision of the Arab League Council shall be formed to deal with all matters concerning the implementation of the provisions of Articles 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this Treaty. It shall be assisted in the performance of its task by the Permanent Military Commission referred to in Article 5. The Joint Defense Council shall

consist of the Foreign Ministers and the Defense Ministers of the Contracting States or their representatives. Decisions taken by a two-thirds majority shall be binding on all the Contracting States.

Article 7

The Contracting States, in order to fulfill the aims of this Treaty, and to bring about security and prosperity in the Arab countries, and in an effort to raise the standard of living in them, undertake to cooperate in the development of their economies and the exploitation of their natural resources; to facilitate the exchange of their respective agricultural and industrial products; and generally to organize and coordinate their economic activities and to conclude the necessary inter-Arab agreements to realize such aims.

Article 8

An Economic Council consisting of the Ministers in charge of economic affairs, or their representatives if necessary, shall be formed by the Contracting States to submit recommendations for the realization of all such aims as are set forth in the previous article. The Council may, in the performance of its duties, seek the cooperation of the Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs referred to in Article 4 of the Arab League Pact.

Article 9

The Annex to this Treaty shall be considered an integral and indivisible part of it.

Article 10

The Contracting States undertake to conclude no international agreements which may be contradictory to the provisions of this Treaty, nor to act, in their international relations, in a way which may be contrary to the aims of this Treaty.

Article 11

No provision of this Treaty shall in any way affect, or is intended to affect, any of the rights or obligations devolving upon the Contracting States from the United Nations Charter or the responsibilities borne by the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 12

After a lapse of 10 years from the date of the ratification of this Treaty, any one of the Contracting States may withdraw from it, providing 12

months' notice is previously given to the Secretariat-General of the Arab League. The Secretariat-General of the League shall inform the other Contracting States of such notice.

Article 13

This Treaty shall be ratified by each Contracting State according to the constitutional procedure of its own government. The Treaty shall come into force for the ratifying States 15 days after the receipt by the Secretariat-General of the instruments of ratification from at least four States. This Treaty is drafted in Arabic in Cairo on April 13, 1950. One signed copy shall be deposited with the Secretariat-General of the Arab League; equally authentic copies shall be transmitted to each of the Contracting States.

Military Annex

1. The Permanent Military Commission provided for in Article 5 of the Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Treaty between the States of the Arab League, shall undertake the following:

(a) in cooperation with the Joint Defense Council, to prepare plans to deal with all anticipated dangers or armed aggression that may be launched against one or more of the Contracting States or their armed forces, such plans to be based on the principles determined by the Joint Defense Council;

(b) to submit proposals for the organization of the forces of the Contracting States, stipulating the minimum force for each in accordance with military exigencies and the potentialities of each State;

(c) to submit proposals for increasing the effectiveness of the forces of the Contracting States in so far as their equipment, organization, and training are concerned; so that they may keep pace with modern military methods and development; and for the unification and coordination of all such forces;

(d) to submit proposals for the exploitation of natural, agricultural, industrial, and other resources of all Contracting States in favor of the inter-Arab military effort and joint defense;

(e) to organize the exchange of training missions between the Contracting States for the preparation of plans, participation in military exercises and maneuvers and the study of their results, recommendations for the improvement of methods to ensure close cooperation in the field, and for the general improvement of the forces of all the Contracting States;

(f) to prepare the necessary data on the resources and military potentialities of each of the Contracting States and the part to be played by the forces of each in the joint military effort;

(g) to discuss the facilities and various contributions which each of the Contracting States, in conformity with the provisions of this Treaty, might be asked to provide, during a state of war, on behalf of the armies of such other Contracting States as might be operating on its territory.

2. The Permanent Military Commission may form temporary or permanent subcommittees from among its own members to deal with any of the matters falling within its jurisdiction. It may also seek the advice of any experts whose views on certain questions are deemed necessary.

3. The Permanent Military Commission shall submit detailed reports on the results of its activities and studies to the Joint Defense Council provided for in Article 6 of this Treaty, as well as an annual report giving full particulars of its work and studies during the year.

4. The Permanent Military Commission shall establish its headquarters in Cairo but may hold meetings in any other place the Commission may specify. The Commission shall elect its Chairman for two years; he may be reelected. Candidates for the Chairmanship shall hold at least the rank of a high commanding officer. Each member of the Commission must have as his original nationality that of the Contracting State he represents.

5. In the event of war, the supreme command of the joint forces shall be entrusted to the Contracting State possessing the largest military force taking actual part in field operations, unless, by unanimous agreement, the Commander-in-Chief is selected otherwise. The Commander-in-Chief shall be assisted in directing military operations by a Joint Staff.

Convention
For Facilitating Trade Exchange
and Regulating Transit Trade Between
States of the Arab League⁽¹⁾

Whereas the Governments of:

THE HASHIMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
THE SYRIAN REPUBLIC
THE KINGDOM OF IRAQ
THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF LIBYA
THE REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
THE MOTAWAKILITE KINGDOM OF YEMEN

Are desirous of fostering economic ties between the States of the Arab League, and of carrying out Article 2 of the Pact of the League of Arab States, which emphasizes the necessity for close cooperation between States of the Arab League in financial and economic matters, including the facilitation of trade exchange, customs, and agricultural and industrial matters.

They have agreed upon the following:

Article 1

A. Exchange of Agricultural Products, Livestock, and Natural Resources.

Agricultural products and livestock, as well as natural resources included in Annex A, appended to this Convention, shall be exempted from customs and import duties, provided that they originate from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties.

B. Exchange of Industrial Production.

Manufactured products, originating in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties and which are included in Annex B appended hereto, shall enjoy most-favored nation treatment as regards customs and import

⁽¹⁾ Signed September 7, 1953.

duties. They shall thus be admitted under a reduction of 25% on the effective customs tariff of the importing Arab country.

C. Livestock, agricultural and industrial products produced in the territory of any of the Contracting Parties and imported into the territory of another Contracting Party, shall not be subject to excise duties exceeding those imposed by the importing country on similar local products or on their component raw materials.

D. Arab countries shall grant most-favored nation treatment to each other as to import and export permits.

E. Due observation shall be paid to the above without infringing on other privileges provided for by bilateral agreements already concluded, or to be concluded in the future between Arab States.

Article 2

Articles Subject to Government Monopoly

The provisions of this Convention shall not be applicable to articles subject to Government monopoly.

Article 3

Goods, Import or Export of Which Is Prohibited

Goods, import of which is prohibited or to be prohibited into the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, according to regulations obtaining in that country, are liable to confiscation if imported from other countries unless a transit permit, bearing the customs seal, has first been obtained for their transfer to countries other than those of the Contracting Parties. The goods shall not be returned to the exporting country.

Goods, export of which is prohibited from the territory of any of the Contracting Parties, shall be confiscated if imported into anyone of these countries. The customs authorities in the importing country shall be responsible for their return to the exporting country.

Article 4

Transit

The Contracting Parties are hereby pledged to facilitate transit across their territories by any kind of transport, allowed by the laws of the country being crossed.

The following are considered as being in transit across the territories of any of the Contracting Parties: goods and personal effects, whatever their origin, whether transported or stored in warehouses, whether

shipped or not, but so as to constitute a complete transfer, beginning and ending outside the frontier of the country crossed.

The transport of cattle and livestock through the territory of one Contracting Party to that of another must be in conformity with regulations in force in the country crossed.

Goods and personal effects sent from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties to the territory of another, shall be accompanied by a consignment note, to be drawn up by the transport agency or its accredited representative and approved by the customs authorities of the country of export. This note shall be approved by the country of destination upon crossing its frontier and when the customs authorities there are assured of the integrity of the customs seal affixed to the goods and of the legality of the means of transport, and of its being in conformity with regulations in force in that area.

Article 5

Goods liable to deterioration and dispatched by transit across the territories of any of the Contracting Parties to a third party, must be exported or withdrawn from the customs within thirty days of their entry into the custody of the customs authorities. Unless this is done, the goods may be confiscated and sold by public auction, or destroyed, according to regulations in force.

RATIFICATION OF THIS CONVENTION

Article 6

The signatory Powers of this Convention shall ratify it in accordance with their own constitutional laws and procedure at the earliest possible date. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States, which shall keep a record of the instruments of ratification of each Power, and notify the other Contracting Parties thereof.

Article 7

States of the Arab League, non-signatories of this Convention, may accede by notifying the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, who shall in turn notify the other Powers of their accession to this Convention.

Article 8

This Convention shall become binding a month after the deposit with the Secretariat of the League of Arab States of the instruments of rati-

fication of three of the signatory Powers, and shall become binding as regards the other Powers a month after the deposit of the instruments of their ratification or adhesion.

Article 9

This Convention shall be binding for a year from the date of its application and shall yearly be automatically renewed unless one of the Contracting Parties shall, at least two months before its expiration, notify the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, in written form, of its desire to alter or cancel the Convention. The Secretary-General shall then notify the other Parties bound by this Convention, which shall remain in force with regard to the other Contracting Parties and its provisions shall remain binding respecting former claims for imported or exported goods, which have been made before expiration of the period mentioned.

In testimony whereof, the Plenipotentiaries, whose names follow, have signed this Convention on behalf of their Governments and in their names.

This Convention was drawn up in Arabic, at Cairo, on Zu-el-Hegga 28th 1372 (September 7th, 1953), in one original, in the custody of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States. A true copy of the original shall be delivered to every Party signatory thereof or adhering thereto.

[Here follow the signatures]

Annex No. 1

(List A)

List of Articles Exempted From Custom Duties Between the Arab States

Section 1.—Livestock

1. Horses, mules, asses, and their young.
2. Cows, bulls, buffaloes, and their young.
3. Sheep, goats, and their young.
4. Poultry and game birds.
5. Bees.
6. Camels and camel colts.
7. Animals especially imported for the improvement of animal stock.

8. Livestock neither specified above nor included elsewhere.

Section II.—Meats

1. Fresh, frozen, or cold meats.
2. Flesh of poultry and game birds.
3. Spiced or prepared meats.
4. Other meats neither specified above nor included elsewhere.
N.B.—This section does not include imported meats—canned, potted or

bottled, or in glass pots hermetically sealed.

Section III.—Fish, crustaceans and shell fish (molluscs)

1. Fresh or preserved fish.
2. Dried fish, salted or smoked.
3. Crustaceans and fresh molluscs (shell fish)
N.B.—This section does not include fish and their products imported in cans or jars.

Section IV.—Milk, dairy products, eggs and honey.

1. Fresh milk and skimmed milk.
2. Fresh-milk cream.
3. Eggs.
4. Honey.

Section V.—Raw materials and other raw products of animal origin.

1. Animal materials, non-edible (such as guts, stomachs, bladders), either fresh, salted or dried.
2. Sinews, scrapings of hides and skins, used in glue making, and cattle blood.
3. Raw skins of birds and their feathers.
4. Bones, horns, hoofs, claws and beaks.
5. Ivory, mother-of-pearl, raw coral and yusr wood (1).
6. Sponge.

Section VI.—Plants and products of floriculture.

1. Bulbs, tubers, onions and roots of flower or foliage plants.
2. Cuttings, grafts and berries.
3. Forest and ornamental plants and fruit-bearing plants.
4. Flowers, cut buds for ornaments or for bunches.
5. Foliage, leaves, herbs and moss used for bunches or ornaments, even tied in bunches or wreaths.

(1) Used as beads, in strings of beads.

Section VII.—Edible vegetables, plants, roots, twigs and tubers.

1. Mushrooms, fresh, dried or truffled.
2. Fresh olives.
3. Salted olives.
4. Tomatoes.
5. Onions and garlic.
6. Edible roots and tubers:
 - a) Potatoes for food.
 - b) Potatoes for cultivation.
 - c) Others.
7. Other Edible vegetables and plants:
 - a) Asparagus and artichoke.
 - b) Cauliflower and cabbage.
 - c) Lettuce.
 - d) Haricot beans, peas, beans, and other pulses.
 - e) Cucumber, marrow, pumpkin, melon and water-melon.
 - f) Edible vegetables and plants non-specified and not included elsewhere.

8. Pulses, in the form of dried grains:
 - a) Haricot beans, beans and peas.
 - b) Lentils.
 - c) Vetches.
 - d) Varieties of pulse.
N.B.—This section does not include the above-mentioned articles when imported in cans, pots, or jars hermetically sealed.

Section VIII.—

1. Dates and natural molasses (treacle).
2. All fruits, fresh and dried.
N.B.—The second item of this section does not include the articles mentioned if imported in cans, pots or jars, hermetically sealed.

Section IX.—Coffee

Coffee, coffee beans, not roasted.

Section X.—Grains (cereals).

Cereals:

- a) Wheat.
- b) Barley.
- c) White Maize.
- d) Yellow Maize.
- e) Rice.
- f) Other grains.

Section XI.—Seeds, oleaginous fruits, seeds and various fruits, industrial and medicinal plants, straw and fodder.

1. Seeds and oleaginous plants:
 - a) Sesame.
 - b) Aniseed.
 - c) Cotton seed.
 - d) Seeds of other oleaginous plants.
2. Seeds and various fruits:
 - a) Seed of lettuce, spinach, turnips, beetroot, cucumber, carrot, yellow water-melon, radish, onion, cabbage, peppers, and parsley.
 - b) Other plants.
3. Industrial and medicinal plants, tobacco and "tombae" (pressed leaves) excepted:
 - a) All the various kinds of roots, flowers, herbs, leaves, barks, algae (seaweed) (green moss, sea moss) and seeds only used in medicine not specified elsewhere.
 - b) Other kinds.
4. Plants and their parts; seeds, herbs not specified and not included elsewhere.
 - a) Thyme.
 - b) Other kinds of herb.
5. Straw and fodder:
 - a) Grain bark.
 - b) Green and dried fodder, and pods.
 - c) Beetroot and grass roots.
 - d) Other kinds.

Section XII.—Raw materials for dyeing and tanning, gums, resins and other vegetable saps and juices

1. Plants and their parts, fruits, pods, berries, walnuts, and seeds for dyeing and tanning, including powdered (ground) forms:
 - a) Woods for dyeing (logwood, yellow wood, red wood, sumach tree, etc.) in stalks, saw-dust or ground, and roots, scraps, leaves, berries, herbs, and twigs, for dyeing.
 - b) Barks for tanning, and barks, leaves, and twigs of sumach trees.
 - c) Roots, herbs, leaves, blossoms, berries, grains and plants, for tanning.

- d) Gallnut, acorns, ground or not ground, and myrobalans.
- e) Henna in leaves or powder.

2. Gums, resinous gums, resins and natural balsams:
 - a) Gun-dragon and gum-arabic.
 - b) Natural balsams.

Section XIII.—Materials for plaiting and carving and other raw materials and products of vegetable origin

1. Vegetable material for wicker-work and mats.
2. Hard grains, husks (pips), and walnuts for carving.
3. Vegetable materials for padding (India cotton, sea and vegetable and similar fibres), including those plaited.
4. Vegetable materials for broom making, brooms, brushes, including those plaited, raw, decolorized or dyed.
5. Other raw products of vegetable origin non-specified and not included elsewhere.

Section XIV.—Ashes, dust, stones and calcium in their natural state.

1. Chalk and raw dyeing dust:
 - a) Ground chalk for building.
 - b) Dyeing dust.
2. Salt.
3. Sulphur.
4. Emery, pumice stone and everything similar, even when ground.
5. Marble, alabaster and raw granite.
6. Other raw stones for carving and building.
7. Gypsum.
8. Calcium.
9. Scrapings of pottery and its fragments.
10. Carnelian.
11. Mineral material not specified and not included elsewhere:
 - a) Talc for industry.
 - b) Other kinds of talc.
 - c) Raw mica and quartz and sand glass.
 - d) Ratbane.
 - e) Others.

Section XV.—Wood

1. Wood for fuel in round faggots or stacks, in twigs or bundles, wood scrapings, and saw-dust.
2. Raw circular wood (logs), even planed or notched with spade.

Section XVI.—Raw skins and hides, cocoons, raw wool, hair and raw fibre

Section XVII.—Textile fibres
Cotton, flax and hemp.

Annex No. 2

(List B)

List of Arab industrial products, subject to most-favored nation treatment.

N.B.—The numbering of the following sections conforms with those of the existing Customs Tariff lists.

Section 4.

1. Butter, fresh, salted, or melted into cooking butter (massli).
2. Kashkawal cheese.
3. White cheese of all kinds.

Section 8.

Apricot paste.

Section 9.

Roasted coffee, ground coffee, preserved coffee, or coffee sent in boxes from Yemen.

Section 11.

1. Wheat-flower.
2. Potato starch.
3. Grain starch.

Section 15.

1. Cottonseed oil.
2. Sesame oil (tahina).
3. Olive oil, including sulphur oil.
4. Linseed oil.

All these oils in solid form or melted.

Section 16.

1. Meat products and meat preserves, pork excluded.
2. Fish products and fish preserves.

Section 17.

1. Glucose.
2. Molasses.
3. Confectionery.

Section 19.

1. Products made of Italian paste (macaronis of all kinds).
2. Biscuits, even if cocoa, fruit or sugar are added to them.

Section 20.

1. Edible plants and vegetables, their parts and products.
2. Fruit products and their parts.
3. Products of other plants and their parts.
(All these products when preserved.)

Section 22.

Ethyl alcohol.

Section 23.

1. Beetroot dregs.
2. Oil cakes of oleaginous fruits and grains.
3. Molasses.

Section 25.

1. Cement, other than white or colored.
2. Yemen mineral salt, preserved or ground.

Section 28.

1. Anhydrous carbonic acid, compressed or liquefied by compression.

2. Oxygen gas, compressed or liquefied by compression.
3. Sulphuric acid.
4. Glycerine.
5. Patent medicines and pharmaceutical preparations.

Section 29.

Positive and developed reels (films).

Section 30.

1. Paints, clear or mixed with coloring substances.
2. Paints and oil-colors.

Section 32.

Ordinary soap, in blocks, in flakes, including carbolic soap.

Section 34.

Matches of all kinds.

Section 35.

1. Manure.
2. Calcium nitrate.
3. Superphosphates.

Section 36.

1. Tanned hides and skins.
2. Skins and leathers of all kinds, bronzed, gilt, silvered, colored or covered with designs or relief ornaments or the like.
3. Dyed skins and straps, varnished or lacquered.

Section 37.

Tanned skins and leathers of all kinds.

Section 40.

1. Walnut wood veneering.
2. Plywood.
3. Mosaic wood-work.
4. Wooden furniture of all kinds, excluding non-carved wood.

Section 44.

Ordinary cretonne, without designs, rolled or in sheets, whose weight exceeds 300 grams per square yard.

Section 46.

1. Natural silk threads and waste yarns.
2. Artificial silk threads.
3. Fibroin yarns of artificial silk.
4. Natural silk embroideries.
5. Trimmings of natural silk.
6. All other kinds of natural silk fabrics, pure or interwoven with other textile substances of any kind.
7. Artificial silk lace.
8. Embroideries of artificial silk.
9. Tapestry of artificial silk.
10. Trimmings of artificial silk.
11. Fabrics made of pure fibroin or interwoven with cotton or wool yarns.
12. Fabrics made of artificial silk threads, pure or interwoven, when printed, designed or ornamented or Jacquard, whatever be the weight of a square meter thereof.
13. Fabrics made of artificial silk-thread (pure or interwoven). The pure should not exceed 100 grams as weight of a square meter. If the weight exceeds this limit, and it is proved that the artificial silk thread used in the making of such fabrics is of Arab origin, then they are subject to most-favored nation treatment.

Section 47.

1. Woolen yarns of all kinds.
2. Woolen carpets and rugs of all kinds.
3. Fabrics of pure wool, if proved to be of Arab wool thread.
4. Carded wool from Yemen.

Section 48.

1. Cotton yarn above No. 40 non-glazed.
2. Cotton yarn below No. 40 non-glazed.

3. Laces of all kinds.

4. Embroideries.
5. Ribbons.
6. Trimmed articles.
7. Floor carpets.

8. Other woven cotton fabrics of pure cotton of all kinds, whose weight per square meter is up to 110 grams.
9. Other woven cotton fabrics of pure cotton of all kinds, whose weight per square meter is more than 110 grams.
10. Woven cotton fabrics, interwoven with other textile materials of all kinds.

Section 50.

1. Spinning cotton.
2. Antiseptic cotton.
3. Ordinary cords, thick cords, bleached thread and string made of Arab textile substances.

Section 52.

1. Clothing fabrics of "tricot" for dresses of all kinds.
2. All other knitted articles, including underclothes, stockings and socks.

Section 53.

1. Clothes and clothes parts made of all textile substances.
2. Sheets of all kinds and of different textile substances.
3. All other kinds, sewn or ready made, of Arab textiles, including blankets, towels and tent cloth.

Section 54.

- Boots and shoes of all kinds, made of leather of Arab origin.

Section 58.

1. Arab marble or Arab alabaster articles of all kinds.
2. Cement or ferro-concrete articles of all kinds.

3. Articles made of cement in the form of slabs of all kinds.

Section 59.

1. Refractory bricks.
2. Crockery and ornamented chinaware.

Section 60.

1. Glass and crystal, in sheets or rolled, of all kinds.
2. Glass-ware articles, blown or compressed crystal-ware articles, especially those for domestic use.
3. Bottles, phials and flasks of all kinds.
4. Glass-ware articles for chemical laboratories and scientific apparatuses of all kinds.
5. Articles or products of hollow glass-ware and all table glass-ware or toilet-ware of the ordinary kind (crystal and semi-crystal excepted).
6. Lamp glass (petrol lamp-glasses).
7. Electric bulbs, provided that all these are of Arab manufacture.

Section 61.

Yemen carnelian products.

Section 62.

Cooking stoves, heaters using fuel oil, made of cast iron and of iron sheets or steel.

Section 62.

Mother-of-pearl articles.

Section 63.

Clothes brushes, shoe brushes and paint brushes, of all kinds.

Section 65.

1. Long or twisted metal thread for embroidery or clothes-making.
2. Metal threads added to other textile substances.

Convention
For the Settlement
of Payments of Current Transactions
and the Transfer of Capital
Between States of the Arab League⁽¹⁾

Whereas the Governments of:

THE HASHIMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN,
THE SYRIAN REPUBLIC,
THE KINGDOM OF IRAQ,
THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA,
THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC,
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF LIBYA,
THE REPUBLIC OF EGYPT,
THE MOTAWAKILITE KINGDOM OF YEMEN.

Are desirous of organizing the settlement of payments of current transactions and of fixing rules of the transfer of capital between them.

They have agreed upon the following:

Article 1

The Settlement of Payments of Current Transactions

1.—The contracting Governments (referred to hereinafter as Parties) shall—to the limit of their power, and in accordance with existing regulations regarding transfer of foreign currency and imports—grant to each other most-favored nation treatment and facilitate the transfer of payment of current transactions, as they are defined in attached List No. 1.

2.—If the procedure applying to the transfer of foreign currencies observed by some or all of the Parties, imposes restrictions on the transfer of payments of current transactions to the other contracting Parties, and if the balance of payments of that Party does not make it possible for it to

⁽¹⁾ Signed September 7, 1953.

effect current payment in foreign currencies acceptable to the other contracting Party, then the debtor's Party shall be pledged to grant to creditor subjects and residents of all the other Parties at least the following facilities:

- a) The right of utilizing their credit accounts for the settlement of all payments of current transactions (defined in List 1), payment of which falls due in the territory of the debtor's Party, as well as for payment for all goods imported into the territory of residence of the creditor's Party from the territory of the debtor's Party which allows export of these goods to all countries.
- b) The right of transferring to residents of any of the Parties, or to another country, a portion or the whole of their credit accounts.
- c) The right of utilizing their credit accounts to pay for goods they may purchase in the territory of the debtor's Party, and whose export to all countries is allowed by this Party, in order to export them to any of the other Parties, or to another country.
- d) If the procedure followed by the debtor's Party imposes the settlement of part of the payment for specified items in a specified foreign currency, then the owner of the credit account shall be entitled, in the cases provided for by the preceding sub-paragraphs (a) and (c), to settle in foreign currency only a part of the value (within the limits of the best rates allowed by the creditor's Party in similar cases), and the remaining part shall be credited to the account of the debtor's Party.

Article 2

Transfer of Capital

- 1.—Arab Governments bound by this Convention shall permit the transfer of capital to enable their subjects and residents to participate in any constructive enterprises agreed upon by the interested parties within the limits of the regulations laid down by each Party for safeguarding its capital, or the capital which was transferred to it, and prevent it from leaking into countries other than those bound to this Convention. The Parties to which capital had been transferred, guarantee its utilization for the above-mentioned aims.
- 2.—Capital to be transferred from one Party to another Party, in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of this Convention, is not liable to any duty or excise tax which may be imposed to preclude such transfer.

3.—Each Party shall permit capital reaching it from any other Party after the signing of this Convention to be returned to the territory of its origin.

Article 3

The provisions of this Convention shall not be applicable where there already exists a binding bilateral convention between any two Parties, or to any current transaction relating to the exchange of commerce and services of the kind specified in the provisions of this Convention and the list thereto attached. Any current transaction not requiring transfer of any currency between one Party and another shall not be affected by the provisions of this Convention when conditions, more favorable than those specified by the provisions of this Convention, are available to the debtor.

Article 4

Ratification of This Convention

The signatory Parties of this Convention shall ratify it in accordance with their constitutional laws and procedure at the earliest possible date. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States, which shall record the deposit of the instruments of ratification of each Party, and shall notify the other Parties thereof.

Article 5

States of the Arab League, non-signatories of this Convention, may become adherents thereto by notifying the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, who shall in turn notify the signatory Parties.

Article 6

This Convention shall become binding a month after the deposit with the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States of the instruments of ratification of three of the signatory Parties; and it shall become binding as regards other Parties a month after the deposit of their instruments of ratification or adhesion.

Article 7

Every Party bound to this Convention may withdraw therefrom after the lapse of five years from its entry, by means of a notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. Withdrawal shall be effective one year after the date of dispatch of such notification.

In testimony whereof, the Plenipotentiaries whose names follow, have signed this Convention on behalf of their Governments and in their names.

This Convention was drawn up in Arabic, in Cairo, Zu-al-Hegga 18th, 1372 (September 7th, 1953), in one original document now in the custody of the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States. A true copy of the original has been delivered to each of the signatory or adhering Parties.

[Here follow the signatures]

List No. 1

Details of the Payments of Current Transactions

- 1.—The value of goods exported from one Contracting Party to another Contracting Party and the cost of their loading and insurance.
- 2.—The commercial profits and dividends accruing from immovable and movable capital, returned to a Contracting Party and utilized by the remaining Contracting Parties.
- 3.—The costs of diplomatic and consular missions and official delegations.
- 4.—The expenses of travel to summer resorts, of tourism in general and pilgrimage, as well as cures and commercial activities.
- 5.—Residence expenses of students, and their school fees; salaries and emoluments of officials, experts, members of free professions, and pensions of pensioners.
- 6.—Settlements due to post, telegraph and telephone offices, and transport organizations.
- 7.—Insurance premiums and indemnities, and the settlement of insurance policies.
- 8.—Sums due for patents and copyrights.
- 9.—Sums due for the release of films, and for the sale of, and subscription to newspapers, magazines and periodical publications, issued in the territory of any of the Contracting Parties.